

Thursday, April 25, 2002

Dear FCC;

I cannot agree with the ARRL proposal on the reallocation of the Amateur Radio Band Plan. I feel that the current allocation for Single Side Band (SSB) is appropriate.

I understand that the band plan is a 'gentlemen's agreement' and that I have experienced SSB infringing on the CW or digital area of the current agreement. I have also experienced CW in the SSB portion of the band plan.

I feel that changing the current band plan would just increase or encourage the eroding of the CW segment of the Amateur Radio spectrum. I have heard the comments that "Morse code is dying and no one uses CW." This, in my experience, is untrue. I have operated in several ARRL and CQ contest and the CW portion of the band plan was used in the same proportion as the SSB allocation. In general casual Amateur Radio use I have noticed that there is constant CW activity.

I feel that the current allocation of SSB use of the band plan is sufficient. If there needs to be a modification I suggest that,

1. The General class should not be increased. This would give an incentive to current General class holders to advance to the Extra level.

2. The Novice operators should be upgraded to Technician class.

3. The Advance section should be upgraded to Extra class.

This would eliminate any confusion as to who may operate at what portion of the band plan.

73, de N9MIU, Mark
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